

1964

Physical education is held in the morning, the coolest part of the school day. To begin with, I give the children variations of the exercises I learned as a Peace Corps trainee. I let them bend and stretch to "Meunier, tu dors" ("Miller, you are sleeping"), march and sing to "J'ai perdu le do de ma clarinette" ("I've lost the C of my clarinet"), and dance "La Capucine." I have them run races and play circle games to accustom them to the ideas of choosing teams, of winning, and of losing.

Lately, I have been using part of the 45-minute period to practice for la fete scolaire (school festival). La section enfantine is going to present three dances: the bunny hop, the hokey pokey, and the twist. The first two I taught them; the third they taught me.

While the children rest their heads, I get water from the pump, fill a bucket, and prepare soap and towel for the "soins de propreté" lesson ("lesson on cleanliness"). I guess they have been used to plain soap, because the day I took a cake of perfumed soap to the class the children could not stop smelling their hands.

One day the principal leaned in from his office, probably to ask me to explain the noise coming from my class. In the French system of education, noise seems to mean any talking that is not in unison. My principal never did get to pose his question, however, because I immediately invited him to see what was going on in each of my noise centers.

One group of children was busy arranging by size, from the smallest to the largest, a 15-piece set of plastic canisters (plastic bowls supplied to all volunteers), thus practicing distinguishing similar objects by size.

Another group was playing an arithmetic game I had made from file cards on which I had pasted a hundred sets of pictures for the children to pair up.

In the reading corner, a half-dozen other children sat turning the pages of books, pretending to read stories they had come to know by heart.

The group in the midst of an animal lotto game had grown a little rowdy (the principal did observe that the children were associating a French term with an image and were learning to play independently), but the noisiest group was hammering and banging wooden pieces together to form buildings and houses.

I had to justify the various activities as best I could.

The children's day ends with a cup of milk and a song. Milk is a real treat for them, and I have made a point of talking about the animal from which milk comes. They wrote about la vache ("the cow") in their notebooks and learned a charming recitation by Daudet on the sound milk makes as it squirts into the farmer's pail.

I was reminded, however, of the necessity of taking nothing for granted and of being sure my pupils have really understood, when late one afternoon Cyriaque, a bright 5-year-old, called out "Voilà la vache." ("There's the cow.")

I stopped serving the cups of milk. "Cyriaque," I asked, bewildered by this observation "ou tu vois la vache?" ("Where do you see the cow?")

He smiled knowingly: "Mais, c'est toi, Mademoiselle, parceque tu nous donnes le lait" ("But you're the cow, Miss, because you give us milk").

(NOTE.—Suellen Fisher's account of her life as a teacher with the Peace Corps recently appeared in the *Elementary School Journal*, published by the University of Chicago Press.)

Appropriate Measures Needed

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. JAMES T. BROYHILL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 1964

Mr. BROYHILL of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, behind erupting violence and the threat of it in many areas of the world, the hands of Communist agitators can be clearly seen. This is a period of increasing Communist threat. The Communist cadres are being sent into many unstable areas of the world to sow strife and unrest. Cuba has become a major base for the subversion of Latin America. Old grievances are being fanned into disorders and political demagogues in Latin America allow themselves to become willing partners. The continuing Panama crisis is a case in point.

Certainly our problems in Panama are not simple. However, we are challenged there dramatically and the world will take notice of our resolution or our willingness to retreat.

The relationship of many world events is evident if we view it in the framework of the great and continuing East-West struggle. Today, I want to commend to the House of Representatives the following editorial from the February 3, 1964, Concord (N.C.) Tribune, which searches aspects of this problem and asks questions that many Americans are asking today:

APPROPRIATE MEASURES NEEDED

How long do we put up with it?

How long does the rich and powerful United States allow itself to be shoved around by an unshaven stooge of communism?

At what point does appeasement become defeat? Or when does it give way to action—action of the kind that reasserts who's who in this hemisphere, or in the world for that matter?

Castro exchanges a bear hug with Khrushchev in Moscow. He had reason to. His followers had just brought to a head a sore point in Panama. And on the other side of the world, Castro-trained agents had upturned the British regime in Zanzibar and saw the U.S. consul jailed at gunpoint by pro-Red insurgents.

Maybe Castro realizes that he is being taken by Mr. K. Recent deals in sugar, with all the sweetness going to Russia, must have taught him something.

But Mr. Castro can see that we are being taken, too. The Russians are feeding on our wheat and we are signing the bill.

Castro can be happy, too, that his little island stronghold is wielding an influence far greater than its size and power warrant. He has seen increasing success in marketing Cuba's chief export in these tense days. That export is mass revolution.

His success is a reflection of U.S. concessions and retreats in principle. He will continue to press his product as long as he can get away with it.

Americans who live in the Panama Canal Zone are angry and alarmed. They warn against any more appeasement. They de-

mand a firm stand to protect American rights, despite the hypocritical outrage of those who charge us with aggression.

It is just a little more than a year ago that the Kennedy administration promised appropriate measures to prevent the spread of Communist revolution and terrorism from Cuba to the Western Hemisphere. Appropriate measures clearly implied armed force if it is needed.

The Panama dispute is a focal point of the spreading Communist infection. It is not an incident which can be solved by arbitration and compromise. Appropriate measures are clearly indicated.

How long do we put up with it?

Spelling and Writing Not What They Should Be

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. WILLIAM H. NATCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1964

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include herewith an editorial entitled "Spelling and Writing Not What They Should Be," which appeared in the February 5 issue of the *Leitchfield Gazette*, of Leitchfield, Ky.

The editorial is as follows:

SPELLING AND WRITING NOT WHAT THEY SHOULD BE

Shortly after perusing an article by Harper's editor John Fischer, who in a semi-humorous vein probed reasons "Why Nobody Can't Write Good," our attention was attracted to the television screen where words, presumably part of a lettered news flash, appeared as "sergeon general's office." Of course, this could have been a typographical error, still after being reminded by Mr. Fischer about educational deficiencies, we wondered.

Mr. Fischer states the principal reason for paucity of proper prose is a failure to teach language and its composition in our schools. Recalling our days in school—no easy task—we must agree that teachers failed to impress us enough with basic rules of composition. We went through all the procedures and no doubt had all the rules explained, but youth sheds learning unless something is done to cause him to concentrate. He needs treatment like that given by the man who takes a club and slams his mule across the head to "get its attention."

Every day we see hundreds of common words misspelled, or we think they are spelled wrong, since most authorities disagree with their arrangement of letters. This leads to the conclusion that people are paying no attention after a word they have read over and over is spelled differently when they write it. Incidentally, we are just as guilty of inattention as anyone else and quite often we are stumped by simple words.

We wonder how many millions of hours have been spent by teachers trying to get a message across to pupils whose minds are either on some other subject or consist of a plain blank. When examination time rolls around, teachers must get desperate when they discover how little has penetrated what passes for brain tissue. Desperation is succeeded by resignation when pedagogs finally

realize the world is peopled by few seeking wider horizons.

The trend in later years has been toward giving a variety of subjects in the hope of gaining attention of pupils. The trouble with this is the field keeps expanding and more is required every year to keep the attention thus tentatively obtained, and there is some question about the value of knowledge thus instilled.

Perhaps we should go back to concentrating more on basic English and spelling, devising some means to attract the attention of pupils to the advantages of learning first of all what words are, how they are spelled and how they are put together to carry a coherent message. This is done now but not to the degree necessary to raise the average student to a desirable literacy level.

One of the distinguishing marks of successful men is the ability to express themselves either in writing or speech. While literacy might not be an assurance of success, it is an important adjunct to success in every area of endeavor.

Press Is Urged To Meet Watchdog Responsibility

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. H. R. GROSS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1964

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, Clark R. Mollenhoff, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the Cowles publications, has urged the American press to do a better job in carrying out its important role as a "watchdog" over Federal programs, policies, and personnel.

He expressed criticism of both the Federal Government and the press in delivering the annual William Allen White memorial address at the University of Kansas in Lawrence on February 10. Mollenhoff is this year's recipient of the William Allen White Award.

The following article on his speech appeared in the February 10 issue of the Kansas City Star:

PRESS FAILING AS A WATCHDOG—DUTY OF CRITICIZING WAYWARD GOVERNMENT UNFULFILLED, EDITORS TOLD—LAXING IN INITIATIVE—WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE LECTURE FLAYS EXCESS OF HANDOUTS

LAWRENCE, KANS.—Clark R. Mollenhoff, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, charged the Federal Government today with efforts to propagandize and suppress the news and then censured the press for not fighting these efforts more.

"The future of the American democracy is contingent upon the performance of the American press," he said in a prepared William Allen White memorial address. "If the press fails in its responsibility—if it flounders in a quagmire of superficiality, partisanship, laziness, and incompetence—then our great experiment in democracy will fail."

WINNER OF WHITE AWARD

Mollenhoff, a reporter for the Cowles publications, has won many awards for his Washington reporting besides the 1958 Pulitzer Prize and the White citation, which brought him here today. He spoke at the Kansas Memorial Union Building at the University of Kansas.

"The press is proud—usually too proud to accept criticism," Mollenhoff said.

He charged that the Nation's press is failing in its responsibility to criticize adequate Government programs, policies and personnel at the Federal level. And he added that there are disturbing signs it does not recognize this failure.

The press has demonstrated, he said, that it does not understand many stories of major importance and that there is mounting evidence that it does not even understand itself on its own self-interest.

NOT AN ALARMIST

"It is not my intention to view with alarm the deterioration of the press since the days of William Allen White," he said. "I do not believe there has been a deterioration."

"I do question whether the press has improved enough to meet the responsibility of a job that becomes more difficult each year. Despite the fact that there are hundreds of well-qualified reporters and editors, the performance is often mediocre or poor in Washington."

The press needs more tough self-criticism regarding the coverage of Federal Government, Mollenhoff declared, and he called such coverage the press' most vital function.

Among its failings, generally, in Washington coverage, Mollenhoff mentioned:

The Federal Government is so big and complex that too many reporters and editors become overwhelmed by the seemingly impossible job of serving as a watchdog over it.

"There has been a floundering by a press that has become more and more dependent upon handouts. Lacking understanding, the press follows the fads of the best Madison Avenue sloganizers."

Reporters who specialize in one area of the Federal Government in too many cases have been converted into propagandists for the agencies they cover—"a type of kept press."

Many newspapers copy the editorial judgment and opinions of some large east coast newspapers, some of which have been demonstrably wrong in the past, a fact which tends to destroy independent thinking and diversity.

"Over a period of 13 years," Mollenhoff said, "I have had the occasion to be critical of information policies of the Truman administration, the Eisenhower administration, and the Kennedy administration. I have tried to make that criticism tough and objective."

DISTORTIONS TO DECEIVE

Some high officials in each of these administrations, he said, engaged in unjustified secrecy policies and each used a wide range of public relations techniques, distortions and outright lies to deceive the public.

"The public officials deserved a lambasting for their arrogance in hiding or distorting the facts but the press was also responsible."

Mollenhoff described in detail what he said he considered two examples of the press' failure as watchdogs for the public—the TFX contract awarded General Dynamics by the Secretary of Defense, involving the spending integrity of the Defense Department and the judgment of Secretary Robert McNamara, and State Department efforts to crush Otto F. Otepka, a State Department security evaluator, for telling Congress the truth.

The bulk of the Washington press corps failed on these two stories, he said, and became propagandists for two political opponents.

He was less critical of press coverage of the Lobby Baker case but noted that even there many reporters did not become interested in it until a German party girl had been discovered on the fringe of some of Baker's social activities.

WAIT FOR SEX ANGLE

"It is amazing," he said, "how a little sex angle stimulated editorial interest in good government."

Mollenhoff also spoke harshly of President Johnson's new form of the press conference.

"I would hardly accept the logic of one editorial writer," he said, "who suggested that if Johnson feels the open press conferences of the past do not fit his personality, then he should be allowed to change."

"In the light of that type of editorial logic, we can only hope that democracy fits President Johnson's personality."

On the subject of television news, Mollenhoff said that TV usually waits until the daily press has done the spadework on an issue before it assumes a watchdog role. Its independence, however, is limited, he noted, because of various Government controls over the media.

The networks also put great stock in exclusive interviews with high Government officials, Mollenhoff added, and it is obvious they pay a price by limiting their independence.

MORE THAN DISMAY

"It is not necessary to be angry at newspapers or television reporters or commentators who fawn over public officials with a smirking sweetness," he said. "Only feel sorry for them."

"The press needs," Mollenhoff said, "and always will need, the independence characterized by William Allen White. The least we can do for his memory is to constantly remind ourselves of the many ways that a free and independent press can be weakened or even destroyed."

"It is our responsibility to aggressively oppose anything that may contaminate democracy."

Mollenhoff also had a side comment on the reporting of local matters, noting that it can require as much ability and a great deal more courage to report on local issues and local people than it does "to ponder outrages in Zanzibar or Leopoldville."

"It is the power of each reporter and each editor," he said, "to make his choice. He can take the easy way and be a patsy for those in political power, but knowing in the end that he was a weak-kneed hero worshipper who bent to any political wind of strength."

"Or he can be a force for good and serve as a real check on government."

CAN DO BETTER

Mollenhoff concluded that he loves his job and criticizes the business he is in only because he knows "it can do so much more and can be so much more effective than it is."

"It has improved," he said, "but it needs more improvement." As a reporter for the Cowles publications, Mollenhoff's writing appears in such newspapers as the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, as well as Look magazine.

Prior to the lecture by Mollenhoff, Whitley Austin, editor of the Salina Journal, received the William Allen White Foundation's State citation for service to journalism and his community.

Rollo Clymer, editor of the El Dorado (Kansas) Times, made the presentation to Austin, who once was a reporter for William Allen White, the late editor of the Emporia Gazette in whose honor the foundation was established.

For the last 30 years, Austin has worked for the Harris group newspapers. He has been editor of the Salina Journal since 1949.

CULLS OUT THE DRIVEL

Clymer cited Austin for his editorials, saying: "The man has a knack of pouncing upon a lone fact in a wilderness of drivel—and making of it a vignette that is worthy of being read over and over."

"Austin seems to gravitate toward the storm centers," Clymer said. The late Gov. George Docking appointed Austin to the State board of regents, "and after a rosary of king-sized meles had burst about Dock-